

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

### February, 2002

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Third Berkshire Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.*

### Residents of Third Berkshire Representative District

#### Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.6% (1,926) reside in the Third Berkshire Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (366) of Third Berkshire Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 69.9% of admissions from the Third Berkshire Representative District were male and 30.1% were female.
- Over 61.3% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 87.9% of admissions were white non-Latino, 7.9% were black non-Latino, 1.9% were Latino, 0.1% were Asians, and 2.2% were other racial categories.
- 56.2% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 12.3% were married, and 20.1% reported not to be married now.
- 24.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 51.8% completed high school, and 23.8% had more than high school education.
- 34.3% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 18.9% of those admitted were homeless.
- 24.9% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

#### Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

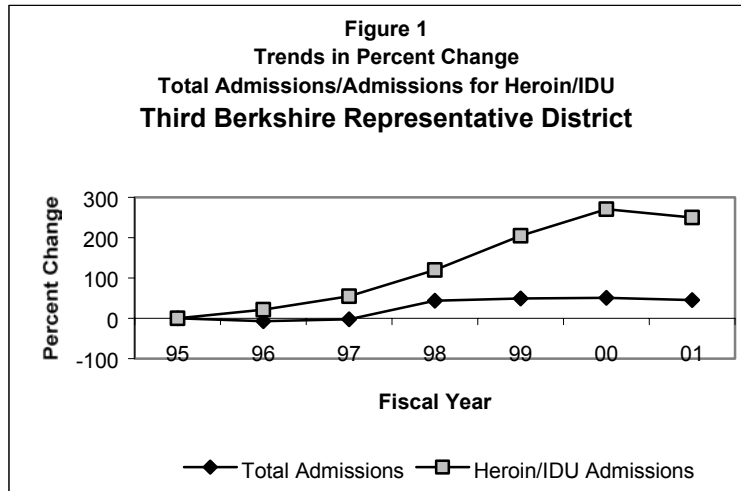
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Third Berkshire Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

<b>Table 1</b> <b>Annual Admissions by Substance Used</b> <b>FY 1995 – FY 2001</b>							
<b>Third Berkshire Representative District</b>							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '95</b>	1,327	1,203	512	260	424	87	56
<b>FY '96</b>	1,237	1,083	502	215	376	104	70
<b>FY '97</b>	1,296	1,128	456	262	329	138	83
<b>FY '98</b>	1,911	1,618	724	350	529	207	107
<b>FY '99</b>	1,975	1,728	805	445	617	268	168
<b>FY '00</b>	2,006	1,732	855	449	568	320	210
<b>FY '01</b>	1,926	1,647	816	433	542	327	174

- Since FY 1995, residents of Third Berkshire Representative District reported a steady increase across all the drug categories.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use more than tripled, while alcohol use increased by 36%, marijuana by 59%, cocaine by 66%, and crack use by 27%.

### Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Third Berkshire Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV<sup>1</sup>.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 45% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 250%.

### Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Third Berkshire Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	62.3 %	11.5%	9.4%	2.5%	10.2%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin and cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol, marijuana, and crack was higher within your District.

<sup>1</sup> The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000